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Sixth annual progress report on the implementation of the capital master plan

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

The sixth annual progress report on the capital master plan is submitted pursuant to section II, paragraphs 31 and 34, of General Assembly resolution 57/292. It outlines the activities relating to the project undertaken since the issuance of the previous report (A/62/364 and Corr.1).

Over the past year, following the approval of the accelerated strategy by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/87, most testing requirements had been completed, a groundbreaking ceremony was held on 5 May 2008, the construction of the temporary North Lawn Building has been initiated, all remaining swing space leases have been signed, and preparations have been finalized for the temporary relocation of staff to swing spaces in moves planned for late 2008 and early 2009.

In addition, significant progress has been achieved in the design of the project, taking into account the changes required by the adoption of the accelerated strategy, the changes agreed upon as a result of the value engineering exercise, the incorporation of substantial greening measures and the incorporation of changes related to blast protection.

* The report is submitted at the present time owing to the need for extensive consultations with offices.

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I. Introduction

1. In December 2007, the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/87, approved the proposal of the Secretary-General for an accelerated strategy that would result in the completion of the capital master plan project by 2013, with a lower risk of disruption caused by the phased approach on which the prior strategy was based. The present report provides an update on the status of the project under the approved accelerated strategy.

II. Progress since the previous annual report

2. Following the decision of the General Assembly on the acceleration of the capital master plan, the Office of the Capital Master Plan continued with the design of the refurbishment, including the incorporation of design changes resulting from the adoption of the accelerated strategy, additional greening measures and the value engineering exercise. Significant progress has been achieved in the design and construction of the temporary Conference Building, the design and fit-out of swing spaces, the planning for the relocation of staff affected by the project and the design of the renovation of the Secretariat, Conference and General Assembly Buildings.

3. As reported in the fifth annual progress report (A/62/364 and Corr.1), the Organization entered into a pre-construction management contract with Skanska Building USA in July 2007. Skanska personnel are presently co-located on site with the staff of the Office of the Capital Master Plan and are fully engaged in providing pre-construction and construction management services. Part A of the contract is for pre-construction advisory services, and a significant part of Skanska's work since the submission of the previous progress report has been in this area. During this stage, design documents are reviewed for constructability and cost-saving opportunities. Concurrently, the firm has begun part B of the contract, the construction management phase, and has submitted detailed cost proposals and guaranteed maximum price proposals for several phases of the planned work. A few of the guaranteed maximum prices have been already negotiated and accepted by the United Nations, while others are under discussion. Those proposals will be negotiated into a number of guaranteed maximum price contracts for the swing space and the renovation, which can be accepted or rejected by the United Nations. If rejected, a new competitive bidding process would be undertaken.

4. The expenses already incurred as well as the rents that are firmly committed through the duration of the project totalled approximately $187.9 million as at July 2008. When the projected costs for the remainder of the project are added, the cost of the capital master plan is closer to the amount budgeted than at the time of the preparation of the fifth progress report and is still on schedule.

A. Design work for the renovation of existing buildings

5. Revised construction documents incorporating both the accelerated strategy as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/87 and the results of the value engineering process are being completed. Those documents are being used for bidding and construction, and are therefore being completed as required to implement the renovation schedule. The earliest documents to be completed are

those for the consolidated technology centre, which will be ready for bidding at the end of October 2008. The Conference, General Assembly and Secretariat Building documents will be ready in late 2008 and early 2009. Building probes to ascertain the precise conditions of the buildings were initiated by the construction manager in May 2008. The results are being incorporated into the revised construction documents.

6. The procurement of several related services has been initiated since the submission of the previous report. A contract has been awarded to a relocation management firm, a key service to assist in planning and implementing large-scale relocations. Procurement is currently under way for commercial movers, an independent project costs estimator, independent experts or a company to perform integrity monitoring of relations between Skanska and its subcontractors and a party to provide documented confirmation that a facility will fulfil the functional and performance requirements of the building owner, occupants and operators.

B. Off-site office swing space acquisition and design

7. The required office swing space is being provided at three leased locations: 79,000 square feet at the United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) Building in Long Island City to accommodate staff members from the Information Technology Services Division, 162,000 square feet at the Albano Building on East 46th Street to accommodate staff members from the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and 423,000 square feet at 380 Madison Avenue. The condition of the space varies from the never-occupied new UNFCU Building to space that is in move-in condition (certain floors of 380 Madison Avenue). The projected date of completion of the swing space fit-out ranges from February 2009 to May 2009. Detailed relocation planning will be coordinated with the final construction schedule. The Organization entered into leases for the Albano Building in July 2007 and for the UNFCU and 380 Madison Avenue Buildings in August 2008. Since the signing of the lease for the Albano Building, the landlord has been undertaking repairs and upgrades of the leased space, in accordance with the contract. For its part, the Office of the Capital Master Plan has prepared the design and commenced preparation for the fit-out of that space and has established an on-site field office for its construction manager.

8. In January 2008, the Organization determined that the staff and functions relating to the library collection should remain on site for the duration of the project, as opposed to being relocated off site. As a result of that decision, some on-site construction of consolidated shelving was required for the library collection, but on the whole resources will be saved because of lower moving costs and the elimination of rental fees.

C. Construction of the temporary North Lawn Building

9. Work began on the construction of a temporary Building on the North Lawn of the United Nations grounds in early 2008. The Building will house conference facilities to accommodate the renovation of the Conference Building, and subsequently will be reconfigured to house the functions of the General Assembly Building when it is under renovation. The Building will also provide office space

for the Secretary-General and his Executive Office, as well as a limited number of other staff members. Concrete foundations and utility work on the site commenced in August, and structural steel is currently being fabricated. Major sculptures were relocated and protected, and temporary facilities such as site roads, fencing, security checkpoints and protective measures have been installed.

10. On-site swing space is being created in the third basement and in parts of the Library and South Annex Buildings. This includes temporary office and storage space. The necessary work is being completed as a series of smaller projects within the capital master plan project.

III. Relocation planning

11. The Office of the Capital Master Plan is charged with the overall coordination and communication of the relocation programme, including coordinating the work of many other groups. In August 2008, the relocation plan was finalized. The plan includes all departments and offices that will relocate in order for renovation to commence in mid-2009.

12. The relocation of departments and offices to off-site office space is currently scheduled to begin in late 2008 and to continue to mid-2009. Those staff and functions that need to remain on site will be relocated to areas away from the renovation work, including swing space in the third basement and in the Library and South Annex Buildings.

13. A coordinated removal of furniture, office archives and other equipment will be undertaken before the actual moves, in accordance with relevant rules and regulations and using recycling where possible. In cooperation with the Archives and Records Management Section, all offices affected by the move have appointed Move and Records Coordinators to help offices prepare their records before the relocation. Over 200 coordinators have already been trained by the Archives and Records Management Section on United Nations records management policies and best practices with the main objective of clearly separating records into those that should be disposed of on site, those that should be sent to the Archives and Records Management Section facilities and those that can be taken to the off-site office space. In addition to promoting best record-keeping practices, the exercise will facilitate efficient use of office space at the new location.

IV. Artwork

14. Planning of the relocation of gifts and other works of art has begun, and Member States have been contacted in relation to the temporary relocation of specific gifts. Some Member States have agreed to temporarily assume custody of gifts donated by them during the renovation work. For those remaining gifts, in order to minimize the requirements for their storage during the project, the Facilities Management Service is working with the Office of the Capital Master Plan to use the temporary North Lawn Building as a display area for the gifts and to phase the relocation of the gifts in line with the overall construction schedule. In this connection, the artwork currently displayed in the Conference Building and the neck area between the Conference and General Assembly Buildings will be relocated and

displayed in the temporary North Lawn Building between September 2009 and September 2011. At that time the artwork will be reinstalled in the newly renovated Conference Building, and the artwork displayed in the General Assembly Building will be relocated and displayed in the temporary North Lawn Building between October 2011 and October 2013. On the completion of the construction work, the artwork will be reinstalled in the newly renovated General Assembly Building. The remaining gifts will be stored in appropriate locations within the Headquarters complex. The goal is to avoid the risk and expense of sending the artwork out of the compound into temporary storage.

V. Value engineering

15. In December 2007, following the approval by the General Assembly of the accelerated strategy, the Office of the Capital Master Plan commenced a value engineering exercise aimed at reducing costs while retaining the essence of the approved scope of the works. Changes that were made related to the redesign of the Secretariat Building to avoid some of the structural work, a simplified reconfiguration of the chiller plant complex and consolidation of the curtain wall to fewer and more standardized types. Conducted over a three-month period, the exercise involved a series of meetings with designers and consultants and a thorough examination of all of the planned systems and functions of the renovation. The objective of the exercise was to reduce the cost of the project without affecting functionality. The exercise resulted in approximately $100 million in potential cost savings, further reducing the project cost overrun to its current level of $97.5 million. The changes resulting from the value engineering exercise are presently being incorporated into the project's design. Value engineering efforts will continue throughout the duration of the project, however its scale will diminish over time.

VI. Sustainability initiatives

16. Progress continues to be made in the area of sustainable design. The environmental performance of the Headquarters complex will be significantly improved upon the completion of the capital master plan project.

17. Under the capital master plan, energy consumption will be reduced by a projected 44 per cent compared with existing conditions, an improvement over the 40 per cent figure reported previously. The reductions will be achieved through the implementation of design initiatives in several key areas, namely:

(a) An improved building envelope: replacement of the existing single-glazed curtain wall with a new high-performance double-glazed curtain wall and new automated interior shades or blinds to control heat gain and maximize the use of natural light;

(b) An improved heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system: replacement of the existing distribution system with a new air-water mixed distribution system, a new automated building management system, which controls building systems using centralized computer technology, and replacement of low efficiency steam-driven chillers with higher efficiency electric chillers; as a result,

the new chiller plant will be a hybrid of new electric chillers and the best of the current steam-driven chillers;

(c) Improved lighting systems: replacement of all light fixtures with high-efficiency lamps and ballasts, new occupancy sensors, which automatically turn off lights if a space is unoccupied, and a new daylight harvesting system, which automatically controls artificial light levels in response to natural light levels.

18. Freshwater consumption will be reduced by at least 40 per cent compared with existing conditions, also an improvement over previously reported figures. The reductions will be achieved through the replacement of existing toilet fixtures with new low-flow lavatories, urinals and toilets; the replacement of the existing landscape irrigation system with a new high-efficiency system; and storm water recycling.

19. Although achievements to date are reported herein, the Office of the Capital Master Plan strives to do more, particularly in the area of renewable energy. It is currently in the process of examining a building-integrated photovoltaic installation for the Secretariat tower curtain wall and expanding the solar panel roof array already included in the project, and is studying a possible wind energy demonstration project. It is also studying the feasibility of purchasing some or all of the remaining demand for electricity from renewable sources.

VII. Advisory board

20. The Secretary-General has taken into consideration the prior requests of the General Assembly with respect to the creation of an advisory board, which was originally proposed by the Secretary-General (see A/55/117 and A/57/285 and Corr.1). While the reasons stated previously for the difficulty experienced in achieving this goal so far continue to apply (see A/60/550, para. 49), efforts to set up an advisory board will continue.

VIII. Relations with the host country

21. In January 2008, the Secretariat reached an understanding with the authorities of the host city and country concerning the process by which the Organization would seek to meet local building, fire and safety codes without prejudice to the privileges and immunities of the Organization. The host country was instrumental in the agreement reached between the host city and the Secretariat. The agreement states that the United Nations will voluntarily apply host city building codes to the capital master plan project and to United Nations Headquarters thereafter, and that the host city will coordinate with the United Nations to facilitate expedited consideration of all building code matters pertaining to the project and to the renovated Headquarters complex thereafter. The agreement further states that the United Nations will periodically invite the host city to visit the Headquarters complex to offer assistance and feedback on building code implementation.

IX. Procurement

22. In paragraph 37 of its resolution 61/251 and in paragraph 18 of its resolution 62/87, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to explore ways to increase procurement opportunities for vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition and to comply with related directives of the Assembly. The Secretariat is working with its construction manager to comply fully with those provisions, and in particular to ensure that procurement opportunities are widely communicated by all appropriate means.

23. In paragraph 38 of its resolution 61/251 and in paragraphs 18 and 19 of its resolution 62/87, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that procurement processes are conducted in a transparent manner and in full compliance with relevant Assembly resolutions. To address that request, all contract information for procurement related to the capital master plan project since its inception is now posted on the website of the Procurement Division. The information can be accessed via the capital master plan website (http://www.un.org/cmp) or the Procurement Division website (http://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/award_cmp.htm). The information listed includes the names and countries of origin of vendors, the identification number and brief description of the contracts, the contract award dates and the dates of the latest amendments, the current value and status of the contracts and the original invitation to bid or request for proposal numbers.

24. All subcontract bidding and award procedures are conducted by Skanska on a transparent basis vis-à-vis the United Nations. This includes advertisements, pre-qualification of subcontractors, establishment of bid lists, preparation of bid packages, bid analyses, trade scope review meetings with subcontractors, bid evaluations and contract awards. The Procurement Division and the Office of the Capital Master Plan oversee all steps in Skanska's subcontracting procedures.

25. Skanska seeks United Nations agreement for its procurement actions through a formal request for approval letter. After internal consultations among all relevant parties of the United Nations, formal written approval is given if appropriate.

X. Communications strategy

26. Keeping the key parties well informed about the capital master plan and anticipating their expectations and needs regarding the project are the major objectives of the communications strategy of the Office of the Capital Master Plan.

27. The Office maintains a website that provides information on the project for all internal and external parties. Monthly articles are also published and archived on the United Nations Intranet webpage, iSeek. Since the submission of the previous annual progress report, three town hall meetings devoted entirely to the capital master plan have been held with the Under-Secretary-General for Management and the Executive Director of the capital master plan. The capital master plan was also on the agenda of numerous departmental town hall meetings. Starting in August 2008, the Office of the Capital Master Plan began participating in the orientation programmes for newly appointed staff members. Furthermore, capital master plan project managers coordinate with the client departments on a daily basis. The Office of the Capital Master Plan also provided a briefing for the Headquarters Committee on Contracts.

28. The Office of the Capital Master Plan makes every effort to provide effective liaison and information to Member States and external parties through briefings and the regular issuance of notes verbales. The Office also maintains close contact with community groups and the architectural and construction community in an effort to ensure full communication about the project.

29. Good contacts with the media are a priority of the Office of the Capital Master Plan. During the reporting period, the Executive Director appeared before the United Nations press corps three times at the daily press briefing. Some 80 requests from Member States and the media for interviews or information were received and answered.

30. With respect to community groups, the Office of the Capital Master Plan has established close relationships with the local community board, which advises the City of New York, and the Turtle Bay Association, one of the most active neighbourhood associations in New York. Information about the capital master plan is provided regularly to them as well as to the managing agents of the major apartment complexes in the vicinity, who serve as a first line of responders in the case of construction-related complaints by their tenants about the United Nations.

31. The message of making the United Nations Headquarters more sustainable through the capital master plan project was delivered to key audiences comprising members of the construction industry and the architectural community by the Under-Secretary-General for Management and the Executive Director at two major conferences on sustainability during 2008. Since the architectural community pays close attention to the renovation of United Nations Headquarters as an icon of modern architecture, special focus is placed on reaching out to that community through industry media and conferences.

32. United Nations tour guides are also briefed about the capital master plan, and in the course of their work they provide information about the project to the visitors.

XI. Donations

33. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 57/292 (sect. II, paras. 27 and 28), 60/256 (para. 6) and 61/251 (para. 7), has encouraged the Secretary-General to seek donations for the capital master plan. A donation policy is under development and will be communicated to Member States on completion.

XII. Parking

34. In order to provide for improved security of the Headquarters complex, certain changes to the garage will be required, resulting in the permanent elimination of approximately 350 parking spaces. At this time it is anticipated that it will be possible to implement this reduction with minimal impact on the garage users, whether members of Permanent Missions or United Nations staff. The precise impact and mitigation measures are being studied and will be made available in due course. Construction activities and an urgent project required to repair the garage slabs will also reduce garage capacity. However, the projects are being phased in an attempt to ensure that the short-term construction-related reduction in capacity does not exceed 350 spaces.

35. Taking into account security considerations, the Secretary-General has decided that the use of the United Nations garage should be restricted to official activities and that what can be considered convenience parking and storage should be eliminated. It should be noted that a primary security risk is overnight parking, as at present many cars remain in the garage for multiple days. Tighter controls on overnight parking at Headquarters, such as limiting it on the basis of required activities, would have the advantage of reducing the security risk. Permanent Missions of Member States and other garage users will be requested to explore alternative arrangements such as drop-off/pick-up permits, carpooling and public transportation.

XIII. Projected cost

36. The projected cost to complete the capital master plan was estimated at $1.974 million as at September 2008. This represents a decrease of $122.1 million from the projected cost as at August 2007, as reported in the fifth annual progress report based on original strategy IV. The projected changes and their progression in time are summarized in table 1.

Table 1
Budget of the capital master plan
(Millions of United States dollars)

	Original strategy IV	*Accelerated strategy*	
	As at August 2007[a]	*As at August 2007*[a]	*As at September 2008*
Construction	1 022.371	964.625	1 032.900
Professional fees, management costs	261.508	234.508	280.340
Subtotal, renovation	**1 283.879**	**1 199.133**	**1 313.240**
Office swing space	144.300	254.534	273.441
Library swing space	14.063	16.636	2.714
Conference swing space	74.063	118.688	149.540
Subtotal, swing space estimate	**232.966**	**389.858**	**425.695**
Total cost for renovation and swing space	**1 516.845**	**1 588.991**	**1 738.935**
Contingency/escalation	**579.428**	**477.819**	**235.236**[b]
Total project	**2 096.273**	**2 066.810**	**1 974.171**
Approved budget	**1 876.700**	**1 876. 700**	**1 876. 700**
Variance against approved budget	**219.573**	**190.110**	**97.471**

[a] As projected in A/63/364.

[b] The total cost of the project ($1.739 billion) is currently split into estimated costs for future expenditure of $988.6 million and commitments entered into/bids received for procurement amounting to $750.4 million. Contingency/escalation is therefore computed as 20 per cent for future expenditures ($197.7 million) and 5 per cent for committed costs ($37.5 million), totalling $235.2 million.

XIV. Schedule

37. Table 2 demonstrates that the project is anticipated to meet the planned completion date.

Table 2
Projected schedule

	Accelerated strategy IV		*Current projection*		
Activity	*Start*	*Complete*	*Start*	*Complete*	*Comments*
Early-action work (refurbish existing North Lawn Building, add centralized technology centre)	Early 2008	Early 2009	—	—	Not required as separate activity
Construction of temporary Conference Building	Early 2008	Mid-2009	Early 2008	Mid-2009	No change
Renovation of United Nations Headquarters	Early 2008	Mid-2013	Early 2008	Mid-2013	No change
Conference Building	Mid-2009	Mid-2011	Mid-2009	Mid-2011	No change
General Assembly Building	Mid-2011	Mid-2013	Mid-2011	Mid-2013	No change
Secretariat Building	Early 2009	Early 2012	Early 2009	Early 2012	No change
South Annex Building	Early 2011	Early 2012	Early 2011	Early 2012	No change
Library Building	Early 2012	Early 2013	Early 2012	Early 2013	No change
Site/landscaping	Mid-2011	Mid-2013	Mid-2009	Mid-2013	Will actually be continuous throughout the project, as each building is completed
Disassembly of temporary Conference Building	Mid-2013	Mid-2013	Mid-2013	Mid-2013	No change

XV. Financing

38. In paragraph 14 of its resolution 61/251, the General Assembly decided to establish two different options for the assessment and payment of costs by Member States for the capital master plan.

39. As at 7 May 2007, 12 Member States had selected the one-time payment option and 180 Member States had selected the equal multi-year assessment of five years in accordance with the pre-established selection criteria and deadlines specified in resolution 61/251.

40. As at 31 August 2008, an amount of $80.2 million in assessments for the capital master plan for 2008 and prior periods remained unpaid.

XVI. Internationally syndicated letter of credit

41. Pursuant to paragraphs 26 and 28 of resolution 61/251, the Office of the Capital Master Plan has completed negotiations with the construction manager for the pre-construction phase of the contract and has negotiated the terms and conditions for the construction phase contracts with a guaranteed maximum price. The Office has been able to give sufficient assurance to the construction manager that funding for the capital master plan is adequate to cover the cost of construction. Consequently, it has not been necessary to establish a letter of credit. However, the Secretary-General is of the view that the authority to establish a letter of credit provided in resolution 61/251 be maintained. Such approval will continue to provide assurance to the construction manager that adequate funding for the plan is available.

XVII. Factors that contributed to the delay in implementation

42. In paragraph 10 of its resolution 62/87, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to include in the sixth annual progress report information on the factors that contributed to the delay in implementation and resulting projected budget overruns of the capital master plan.

43. It is important to note the lengthy history of the capital master plan project, which extends back more than 10 years. During that time, significant changes have occurred in the local and global economic and security environments. The regional construction market has undergone rapid change, with both significant increases in trade costs and major changes in swing space rental costs.

44. Until 2005, the swing space needs of the capital master plan were based on the plans by the host state and city for a new building adjacent to United Nations Headquarters. The non-materialization of those plans required a substantial change in strategy, which caused delays. Construction projects, especially major renovations such as those envisioned in the capital master plan, rarely proceed according to original plans. Flexibility to modify approaches or strategies is the key attribute of the effective management of such projects.

45. Although procedural difficulties relating to the award of the pre-construction services contract caused some delays in 2007, the Secretary-General believes that,

on balance, the delays allowed for an extraordinary level of due diligence by the Secretariat prior to the award of the contract. There were also significant benefits, including cost benefits, associated with the delayed implementation of the capital master plan. For instance, the project has fortunately benefited from recent rental market corrections.

46. In mid-2007, upon the appointment of the new Executive Director, the Secretary-General requested a review of the project's phasing and schedule, which resulted in the proposal to the General Assembly for an accelerated strategy, which, in particular, reduced the risks of additional construction costs and delays by undertaking the renovation of the Secretariat in a single phase.

47. This approach, which was approved by the General Assembly in December 2007, resulted in an immediate estimated cost savings of approximately $30 million. The subsequent value engineering exercise, as proposed in the fifth annual progress report and endorsed by the Assembly, has identified a further $100 million in cost savings.

XVIII. Working capital reserve

48. In its resolution 61/251, the General Assembly approved the establishment of a working capital reserve of $45 million under the capital master plan account. As at 31 August 2008, an amount of $80,500 remained outstanding.

XIX. Status of appropriations and expenditures

49. The total appropriation to date is $1,186.8 million, broken down as follows:

(a) In its resolution 57/292, the General Assembly appropriated $25.5 million for the design development phase of the capital master plan and authorized commitments of up to $26.0 million for the biennium 2004-2005 for the preparation of construction documents;

(b) In its resolution 59/295, the Assembly decided to convert $17.8 million of the $26.0 million commitment authority into an appropriation and renewed the existing commitment authority for 2006 for the balance of $8.2 million;

(c) In its resolution 60/248, the Assembly decided to convert the balance of the existing commitment authority of $8.2 million into an appropriation for 2006;

(d) In its resolution 60/256, the Assembly appropriated an additional $23.5 million for financing the design and pre-construction phases of the capital master plan, including swing space requirements, and provided commitment authority for up to $77.0 million for the biennium 2006-2007 to provide for the construction, fit-out and related requirements of a conference swing space building on the North Lawn and for the leasing, design pre-construction services, fit-out and related requirements of library and office swing space;

(e) In its resolution 60/282, the Assembly decided to convert the existing $77.0 million commitment authority into an appropriation, which was assessed in 2006;

(f) In its resolution 61/251, the Assembly decided to appropriate $42.0 million for 2007 for the design and pre-construction phases of the capital master plan, including swing space requirements;

(g) In its resolution 62/87, the Assembly decided to appropriate $992.8 million for the biennium 2008-2009 for the project.

50. Actual expenditures for the project as at 30 September 2008 amount to $239.5 million. This consists of actual expenditures of $3.2 million in 2003, $14.8 million in 2004, $6.5 million in 2005, $36.5 million in 2006, $46.4 million in 2007 and $132 million for 2008. It should be noted that the rate of expenditure was slower than expected, but it is expected to increase with the construction manager now on board and as initial construction work commences. Actual and projected expenditures for the period from 2003 to 2009 by category are detailed in table 3.

Table 3

Expenditures for the period 2003-2008[a] for the design development, construction documents and construction administration phases and for pre-construction services and construction

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2003-2005[a]	*2006[a]*	*2007[a]*	*January-September 2008[a]*	*October-December 2008[b]*	*Total*	*2009*
Design contractual services	12 910.1	22 426.9	13 324.8	28 685.5	20 257.3	97 604.6	5 000.0
Direct staff costs	4 790.3	1 569.4	2 338.9	2 038.3	747.5	11 484.4	3 119.1
Support costs	1 348.2	587.1	958.1	927.8	929.9	4 751.1	1 980.9
Operating and other costs	1 623.4	570.0	751.1	3 332.3	7 030.2	13 307.0	2 562.4
Programme management and consultants	3 377.1	4 524.8	4 117.4	17 723.9	9 960.9	39 704.1	5 000.0
Construction and pre-construction	—	—	7 022.0	10 026.2	206 399.8	223 448.0	471 828.9
Swing space cost	506.3	6 848.0	17 881.2	69 304.5[c]	141 707.0	236 247.0	44 722.6
Subtotal	**24 555.4**	**36 526.2**	**46 393.5**	**132 038.5**	**387 032.6**	**626 546.2**	**534 213.9**
Savings	(12.7)	(1 512.4)				(1 525.1)	
Total	**24 542.7**	**35 013.8**	**46 393.5**	**132 038.5**	**387 032.6**	**625 021.1**	

[a] Actual.

[b] Projected.

[c] The capital master plan project has already committed $187.9 million towards swing space rental costs for the duration of the project; however expenditure of $18.9 million, reflecting the rent until December 2008 only, is reported above.

XX. Associated costs

51. As discussed in paragraph 35 of the previous report, the renovation work will require temporary increases in staffing and operational costs in parts of the Organization that particularly support construction activities. Costs for such activities were not included in the capital master plan budget approved by the General Assembly. Accordingly, the Secretary-General submitted a separate report to the Assembly dated 14 April 2008 detailing such associated cost requirements (A/62/799).

52. At about the same time, on 5 June 2008, a letter was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.5/62/29, annex) in which he drew attention to the need for the Secretariat to enter into commitments through 31 December 2008 in respect of associated costs related to the capital master plan. In the letter, the Secretary-General expressed his understanding that the work programme of the Fifth Committee and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions did not allow for the full consideration of his report on associated costs (A/62/799) and stated his intention, absent any objection from the Assembly, to enter into commitments not exceeding $22.7 million, comprising $9.5 million in associated costs required in support of the capital master plan and $13.2 million for costs relating to the relocation of the secondary data centre, both of which related to ongoing operations for which a loss in momentum would greatly disadvantage the Organization. The Secretary-General further emphasized that the failure to proceed with elements of the associated costs and the data centre would delay the core capital master plan project (at a cost estimated at $11.7 million a month). The letter also highlighted the need for the Assembly to finance the associated costs over and above the core capital master plan costs if efforts to absorb such costs within the project were not fruitful.

53. The seventh annual progress report will provide a complete accounting of the commitment and expenditure of all associated costs. Table 4 below provides the status of the related resources committed.

Table 4
Status of expenditures pertaining to associated costs
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Budget section	*Estimate of requirements, 2008*	*Expenditure as at 30 September 2008*	*Projected expenditure, 1 October-31 December 2008*	*Total expenditure, 2008*
2. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	390.1	—	390.1	390.1
27. Public information	250.0	—	250.0	250.0
28. Management and support services	3 339.3	—	2 747.2	2 747.2
33. Safety and security	4 920.3	646.9	1 808.7	2 455.6
35. Staff assessment	638.3	13.5	204.2	217.7
Total	**9 538.0**	**660.4**	**5 400.2**	**6 060.6**

XXI. Conclusions and recommendations

54. **The Secretary-General recommends that the General Assembly:**

(a) Take note of the progress made since the issuance of the fifth annual progress report;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to continue reporting on the status of the project, the schedule, the projected completion cost, the status of contributions, the working capital reserve, the status of the advisory board and the letter of credit in the next progress report.

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Financial and administrative implications of increased membership of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, staffing of the professional secretariat of the Scientific Committee and methods to ensure sufficient, assured and predictable funding

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution 62/100, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive and consolidated report to the Assembly at its sixty-third session, to be prepared in consultation with the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, as appropriate, addressing the financial and administrative implications of increased membership of that Committee, staffing of its professional secretariat and methods to ensure sufficient, assured and predictable funding.

Several States have expressed a desire to become a member of the Committee, which comprises scientists from 21 States Members of the United Nations and undertakes broad scientific reviews of the sources of ionizing radiation and its effects on human health and the environment. The Committee is fundamental to the international radiation safety regime. The Committee has expressed its view that, considering the support it requires from the secretariat, the current critical financial and resource issues should be addressed prior to reaching a decision on the question of membership. The Committee has meanwhile suggested flexible arrangements whereby, for reasons of efficiency, the maximum number of members would remain at about the present level.

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In order to provide up-to-date and continuing high-quality assessments in a timely manner, to improve dissemination of the findings and to ensure the technical infrastructure to support the Committee effectively, the current staffing of the Secretariat of the Scientific Committee would need to be strengthened with an additional Professional post at the P-4 level (estimated at $169,600 per biennium). Although the Committee has recommended that its membership remain at about the present number, if the membership were to be increased by six members, it is estimated that additional resources of $90,000 in non-posts requirements per biennium would be required.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 62/100, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive and consolidated report to the Assembly at its sixty-third session, to be prepared in consultation with the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, as appropriate, addressing the financial and administrative implications of increasing the membership of the Committee, staffing of its professional secretariat and methods to ensure sufficient, assured and predictable funding.

2. The report has been prepared following consultations with the Scientific Committee during its fifty-sixth session, held from 10 to 18 July 2008 in Vienna.[1]

3. The General Assembly established the Scientific Committee by its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955 to undertake broad scientific reviews of the sources of ionizing radiation and its effects on human health and the environment. Since 1955, the Committee has played an important role in improving international scientific understanding of the levels of exposure to ionizing radiation and its health and environmental effects. The evaluations of the Committee have often underpinned significant actions at the governmental level, such as (a) the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water; (b) the preparations for the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, which established the first global principles for environmental protection and led to the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); (c) substantial reductions in the radiation exposure limits for workers and the public;[2] (d) international action plans to improve protection of workers, patients and the environment; and (e) recovery from the 1986 Chernobyl accident.

4. The Committee's assessments are conducted on behalf of all Member States and are used for evaluating the effects of using radiation in medicine, research, agriculture and industry and of nuclear power production. Moreover, the Committee's scientific consensus is fundamental to the international radiation safety regime, critically underpinning the international standards[2] for protecting the public, workers and patients against ionizing radiation. In turn, these standards are linked to important national and international programmes and legislative instruments.

5. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 53/44 and 62/100, has reaffirmed the desirability of the Committee continuing this work and the decision to maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee.

6. For the annual sessions, more than 100 scientific advisers from the 21 States members of the Committee and observers from relevant international organizations scrutinize the scientific content of several lengthy, highly specialized documents.

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[1] The report of the Scientific Committee is contained in the *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 46* (A/63/46).

[2] International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources, International Atomic Energy Agency Safety Series No. 115 (Vienna, 1996), jointly sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Labour Organization, the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization. Other standards are linked to the Basic Safety Standards.

The secretariat, provided under arrangements with UNEP and located in Vienna, arranges the annual sessions and coordinates the development of these documents, which are meticulously based on scientific and technical information obtained from Member States and the scientific literature, according to the Committee's requests. Historically, the Committee has approved a substantive report supported by several detailed scientific annexes every four to five years. The secretariat arranges for the dissemination of the Committee's findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public.

7. In the past decade there has been a marked acceleration in the pace of global communication and of specialized scientific developments (such as in molecular biology and genetics). Moreover, there is growing interest in the Committee's work, in part because of (a) renewed consideration of nuclear power in response to concerns about energy security and global warming; (b) apprehension about the potential human and environmental impact of accidents and of radioactive waste; (c) threats related to nuclear and radiological weapons; (d) new applications of radiation in medicine, research, agriculture and industry; and (e) the effects of radiation at low rates of exposure. In addition, more States are submitting information for the Committee's assessments and several have expressed interest in becoming members.

Strategic plan and future programme of work for the period 2009 to 2013

8. At its fifty-sixth session the Scientific Committee adopted a strategic plan to provide the vision and direction for its activities during the period 2009 to 2013, to facilitate results-based programming by the secretariat, to help foster management of sufficient, assured and predictable resources and to improve planning and coordination among the various parties involved.

9. The Committee considered that its strategic objective for the period was to increase awareness and deepen understanding among authorities, the scientific community and civil society with regard to levels of ionizing radiation and the related health and environmental effects as a sound basis for informed decision-making on radiation-related issues.

10. While still conducting comprehensive oversight and evaluations consistent with its overall mandate, the Committee identified the following thematic priorities for the period: (a) medical exposures of patients, radiation levels and effects of energy production; (b) exposure to natural sources of radiation; and (c) improved understanding of the effects from exposure to ionizing radiation at low dose rates.

11. In order to implement the strategic plan, the Committee assumed that its intersessional work would increase and that actions would have been taken to address its concerns about staffing and funding.

12. For its future programme of work, the Committee decided to initiate work immediately on (a) assessments of levels of radiation from energy production and the effects on human health and the environment; (b) uncertainty in radiation risk estimation; (c) attributability of health effects to radiation exposure (in response to General Assembly resolution 62/100); (d) updating its methodology for estimating

exposures resulting from discharges from nuclear installations; (e) a summary of radiation effects; and (f) improving data collection, analysis and dissemination.

13. Depending on the availability of resources, specifically in the Committee secretariat, other work might be undertaken on the biological effects of key internal emitters, medical exposures of patients, enhanced exposures to natural sources of radiation due to human activities, public information and development of a knowledge base on radiation levels and effects.

II. Background on support to the Committee

14. Resolution 913 (X) requested the Secretary-General to provide the Committee with appropriate assistance in organizing and conducting its work and to provide a Secretary of the Committee. Subsequently, in addition to the Secretary, a number of scientific staff were recruited on a rotational basis to the secretariat, then based in New York, who were responsible for presenting, in a form suitable for consideration by the Committee, the large body of information submitted by Governments.

15. In 1974, the secretariat of the Scientific Committee was transferred from New York to Vienna and in 1976, the organizational responsibility for servicing the Committee was transferred from the office of the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs to UNEP. From then onwards, the General Assembly in its annual resolutions on the subject has requested UNEP to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the Scientific Committee's work and for the dissemination of its findings to the Assembly, the scientific community and the public. The staffing and operational resources of the Scientific Committee are provided under section 14 of the programme budget of the United Nations. Since 1979, local administrative services have been provided by the United Nations Office at Vienna.

16. In contrast to when the Scientific Committee was established, the present secretariat of the Committee comprises 1 Professional post at the D-1 level for the Secretary of the Committee and 2 General Service posts (1 principal level and 1 other level). The responsibilities of the Secretary of the Committee are as follows: (a) to provide the strategic direction, programmatic and day-to-day management of the secretariat, including oversight of the staff, and to supply the scientific, technical and administrative assistance for the Committee to discharge its responsibilities and mandate; (b) to direct the preparation, conduct and administrative follow-up of the annual sessions, including the preparation of relevant parliamentary documentation; (c) to coordinate the preparation of several extremely technical documents for timely scrutiny by the Committee; (d) to develop and maintain communication networks for liaison and coordination with the Committee, scientists, the diplomatic community, UNEP headquarters and other relevant organizations, as appropriate; (e) to prepare strategic papers for consideration by the Committee and/or Member States; (f) to maintain systems for collecting, reviewing and disseminating relevant scientific information; (g) to represent the Committee at relevant scientific and diplomatic forums (the General Assembly, conferences, seminars, meetings etc.), including presenting the Committee's detailed scientific findings; and (h) to prepare correspondence, promotional and public information material, respond to inquiries from the public and scientific community and manage the overall (and in particular the administrative) content of the website of the Scientific Committee.

17. The General Service (principal level) post provides for an Editorial/Administrative Assistant. The incumbent (a) arranges consultant contracts and travel of representatives in connection with yearly sessions; (b) fulfils the responsibilities of the secretariat regarding the programme budget, monitoring of the programme of work, expenditure certification and budget/programme performance reporting and administers its human resources; (c) provides general administration and office management support; (d) assists in the finalization of detailed scientific documentation (tables and figures) for scrutiny at the annual sessions of the Committee; and (e) directly assists the Secretary of the Committee in drafting of correspondence and papers of a non-routine nature and raising awareness of the Committee's work (preparing briefings and promotional activities and materials). The General Service (other level) post provides for a Reference Assistant. The incumbent is responsible for (a) the organization and accuracy of extensive bibliographic citations of scientific papers in the reports of the Committee; (b) filing and retrieval of references from the Committee's reference collection (over 10,000 physical volumes); (c) reformatting and word-processing of detailed scientific documents for scrutiny by the Committee; and providing secretarial support to the Secretary of the Committee.

18. The assessments prepared by the Scientific Committee have increased dramatically, nearly seven times greater in size over the years, from just 230 pages in the 1958 report of the Scientific Committee to some 1,600 pages for the 2006 and 2008 reports. To illustrate the increased workload, table 1 compares key work elements for developing the most recent 2006 and 2008 reports of the Committee to those for developing similar reports 20 years earlier, in 1986 and 1988.

Table 1
Indicators of key work elements for development of the 1986 and 1988 reports and the 2006 and 2008 reports

	Development period	
Work element	*1982-1988 (covering 1986 and 1988 reports)*	*2001-2008 (covering 2006 and 2008 reports)*
Prepare, conduct and follow-up annual sessions, including preparation of relevant parliamentary documentation.	73 delegates, 10 observers from international organizations and 8 consultants attended the thirty-seventh session (91 in total).	82 delegates, 11 observers from international organizations, 6 consultants, 1 specific focal point for Chernobyl matters and 7 observers from Member States attended the fifty-sixth session (107 in total).
Coordinate preparation of highly technical documents (typically more than 1,000 pages for a session) and conduct meticulous scientific editing and finalization.	Direction of work usually by single experts, but often supported by a national institute.	Scientific developments are increasingly complex and diverse. Increased coordination of groups of specialists. Limited support from national institutes.
	The 1986 and 1988 reports in 2 volumes amounted to some 1,000 pages, including more than 710,000 words, 4,797 references, 370 tables and 162 figures, were prepared between	Coordination of intersessional reviews of documents in 2007-2008, involving some 112 sets of written comments and responses to them.
		The 2006 and 2008 reports in 4 volumes amount to some 1,600 pages, including some

Work element	Development period	
	1982-1988 (covering 1986 and 1988 reports)	*2001-2008 (covering 2006 and 2008 reports)*
	1982 and 1988 and were published in 1986 and 1988.	810,000 words, 5,085 references, 406 tables, 243 figures and 31 electronic worksheets. They were prepared during 2001-2008 and were partly published in 2008. They are expected to be fully published only in 2009.
Maintain systems for collecting, reviewing and disseminating data:	Principal information derived from specific scientific journals and 83 national reports submitted by States.	Principal information derived from vast literature available electronically. Increased information and data flows from States, institutes and experts.
Discharges from nuclear facilities;	13 States; 232 facilities	31 States; more than 430 facilities
Occupational exposures;	14 States; 10 occupations	52 States; some 30 occupations
Medical diagnosis and therapy;	13 States; 19 procedures	53 States; some 90 procedures
Exposure to natural radiation;	25 States	56 States
Scientific reference collection.	About 5,000 volumes managed.	Over 10,000 volumes held.
Prepare correspondence, promotional and public information material; respond to inquiries and manage website.[a]	Public information booklet on "Radiation doses, effects and risks" published 1985 (and updated in 1993).	Secretary manages content of some 90 web pages constituting the Committee's website[a] and in 2007-2008 responded to some 100 inquiries from the media, public and scientific community, many involving research.

[a] http://www.unscear.org.

19. The resources approved for the Scientific Committee under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for non-post costs amount to $446,400 (including $155,400 for travel of representatives) as compared with $301,800 (including $92,400 for travel of representatives) in final expenditure approved for the biennium 2006-2007. Regarding the resources for the activities of the secretariat of the Scientific Committee itself (excluding the provision for travel of representatives), as can be seen from table 2, the total non-post resources of $544,900 appropriated for the period 2002 to 2007 were much lower than the appropriation of $699,300 for the period 1982 to 1987. While the magnitude, diversity and complexity of the workload of the Committee has increased significantly over the years, there has not been a commensurate increase in the level of resources available to it. Moreover, the staffing strength of the secretariat was reduced by one staff member when the P-5 post was abolished in the biennium 1994-1995, consistent with the redeployment measures instituted in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, when the post was redeployed to the Department of Political Affairs in line with the treatment of vacancies in force at that time.

20. Moreover, in the 1990s some national scientific institutes assisted the secretariat on a cost-free or cost-sharing basis. However, budgetary constraints in many States have prevented institutes from offering assistance on such a basis and magnitude. This downward trend has an impact on the ability of the secretariat to deliver its programme of work, as well as on the level of extrabudgetary resources at the disposal of the secretariat. In this regard, additional resources were approved by the General Assembly in the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for the Scientific Committee relating to consultants and printing requirements.

Table 2
Comparison of available resources at the time of preparation of the 1986 and 1988 reports and the 2006 and 2008 reports
(United States dollars)

	Development period	
Item	**1982-1988**	**2001-2008**
Staffing	1 D-1, 1 P-5[a] 2 GS (1 PL, 1 OL) Secretary's term of office was unbroken 1980-1988	1 D-1 2 GS (1 PL, 1 OL) Continuity[b] problems owing to staff changes and medical-related absences
Programme budget	**1982-1987**	**2002[c]-2007**
Consultants	381 100	387 700
Other staff costs	26 600	30 100
Staff travel	44 900	69 700
Contractual expenses, general operating expenses, furniture and equipment	246 700	57 400[d]
Miscellaneous		
Subtotal	**699 300**	**544 900**
Travel of representatives[e]	375 100	262 200
Total	**1 074 400**	**807 100**
Contributions in kind	National institutes provided significant cost-free contributions.	National institutes provided limited cost-free contributions.

[a] Post was abolished in the biennium 1994-1995.
[b] Continuity is to be interpreted as the maintenance of operational capability of the secretariat to adequately service the Committee and to fulfil its administrative functions, in the short, medium and long term.
[c] No session was held in 2002 owing to insufficient financial resources (see General Assembly resolution 57/115).
[d] Excludes $49,000 made available to the Scientific Committee by UNEP.
[e] Resources for travel of representatives reflected separately in order to allow realistic comparison of secretariat operational requirements.

21. The level of resources for the preparation of the Committee's 2006 and 2008 reports, in particular in the light of the increased workload, contributed to the following:

(a) Delays in producing the 2006 and 2008 reports, parts of which were originally estimated for completion and publication by 2005 (see A/56/46, para. 10),[3] are, for example, affecting the revision of the international Basic Safety Standards,[4] and media reporting in 2006 on the twentieth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident led to considerable confusion over projections of numbers of deaths caused by the accident, some of which could have been avoided by timely availability of the Committee's assessments;

(b) Lack of spare capacity to maintain or overhaul some of the technical infrastructure that supports the Committee's work in the long term (for example, over 10,000 physical volumes of scientific references are no longer being actively managed and the Secretary has minimal time to develop further the functionality, content and usefulness of the Committee's website or to enhance data collection, analysis and dissemination), to respond adequately to unforeseen events or opportunities that may arise, or to prepare papers for scientific journals, make presentations at conferences, develop public information material and respond adequately to media interest, as part of fulfilling the mandate to disseminate the findings of the Committee;

(c) An increased risk of errors that might fundamentally damage the Committee's reputation for authoritative scientific evaluations.

22. Starting in 2002, the Committee has conveyed its concern about the inadequate provision of support funds in its annual reports to the General Assembly, most recently in the report of the Committee on its fifty-fifth session (A/62/46). The Assembly, in its resolution 57/115 and subsequent resolutions, the latest of which is resolution 62/100, has urged UNEP to review and strengthen the funding of the Scientific Committee. A proposal submitted for the establishment of a P-5 post in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, to provide additional specialized scientific capacity to support the ongoing work programme (see A/56/6 (sect. 14)/Rev.1, para. 14.32), was not endorsed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and was not approved by the Assembly. The Advisory Committee at the time was of the view that requests for additional resources should be made only after full account had been taken of whether additional capacity could be found through new technologies, more efficient work processes or redeployment as a result of reprioritization or reorganization (see A/58/7, para. 81 and part IV, para. IV.64).

23. While the level of resources was increased under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for the Scientific Committee to carry out its work with regard to non-post resources, this did not address the need to strengthen the staffing capacity of the Committee secretariat.

24. In response to General Assembly resolution 61/109, in which the Assembly urged UNEP to continue to seek out and consider alternative funding mechanisms to

[3] The first of two volumes of the 2006 report was eventually published in July 2008; the second volume is now envisaged to be published at the end of 2008. The 2008 report will not be published before 2009.

[4] See International Atomic Energy Agency resolution GC(51)/RES/11 of 21 September 2007.

complement existing ones, the Executive Director of UNEP established a general trust fund for voluntary contributions in respect of the Scientific Committee.

25. In its resolution 62/100, the General Assembly took note of the establishment of the general trust fund and again urged UNEP to continue to seek out and consider such temporary funding mechanisms to complement existing ones. It also noted the deep concern of the Scientific Committee (see A/62/46) that reliance on a single post at the professional level in its secretariat had left the Committee seriously vulnerable and had hampered the efficient implementation of its approved programme of work. The Assembly appealed to the Secretary-General to take appropriate administrative measures so that the secretariat could adequately service the Scientific Committee in a predictable and sustainable manner and effectively facilitate the use of the invaluable expertise offered to the Committee by its members in order that the Committee might discharge its responsibilities and mandate.

26. Although UNEP is organizationally responsible for servicing the Committee and has taken reasonable steps within its authority to support the programme of work, there have been difficulties in addressing staffing and funding issues of the Committee within the resources provided to UNEP. Moreover, the Committee's mandate covers additional issues other than environment, such as radiation exposures at work, radiation for medical purposes and radiation health effects.

III. Professional staffing of the secretariat of the Scientific Committee

27. Reliance on a sole Professional post has hampered the work of the Committee and left the Committee vulnerable to continuity problems on a daily and long-term basis. Bearing in mind the current workload of the secretariat as detailed in table 1 above, it is estimated that an additional Professional post of a Scientific Officer at the P-4 level would be needed to: (a) support increasingly extensive, complex and diverse assessments, ensuring their timeliness without compromising on quality; (b) improve dissemination of the Committee's findings and coordination with other international organizations; and (c) develop and maintain support infrastructure for the longer term. Taking into account the Committee's proposed strategic plan and programme of work, for which some additional work months are anticipated, it is considered that the additional staffing capacity is further justified.

28. In response to issues previously raised by the Advisory Committee (see A/58/7, para. 81 and part IV, para. IV.64), consideration has been given to whether new technologies could reduce the effort needed. However, while these may be used to make some of the support processes more efficient, the limiting factor remains the need for additional capacity for thorough professional review, analysis and editing in the Committee's secretariat.

29. The functions of the Scientific Officer post would be (a) to assist the Secretary of the Committee in developing the programme of work, programme monitoring and general trust fund promotion and fund-raising; (b) assist in the technical preparation, conduct and follow-up of the annual sessions, including the preparation of relevant parliamentary documentation; (c) coordinate the preparation of several extremely technical documents for scrutiny by the Committee (in particular on the biological

effects of radiation exposures), maintaining the Committee's high standards of academic and scientific excellence; and (d) recommend the engagement of and provide support to consultants with first-class expertise, conduct scientific editing of the documents and prepare complex graphics. The Scientific Officer would also (a) help to liaise and coordinate work with the Committee, scientists, the diplomatic community, UNEP headquarters, and other relevant organizations, as appropriate to avoid duplication of effort and inconsistencies; (b) help to prepare strategic papers for consideration by the Committee and/or Member States; (c) develop and help to maintain systems for collecting, reviewing and disseminating relevant scientific information; (d) prepare regular reviews of new data and information; (e) represent the secretariat at relevant general and scientific forums (General Assembly, conferences, seminars, meetings etc.); (f) prepare correspondence, promotional and public information material, related in particular to the biological effects of radiation, respond to inquiries from the public and scientific community and manage the technical pages of the website; and (g) act as a back-up to the Secretary of the Committee.

30. In addition to the proposal for a new P-4 post, there is a need to engage consultants with the highest levels of expertise to conduct complex work over several years. Additional resources for consultants have, however, already been provided in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

IV. Methods to ensure sufficient, assured and predictable funding

31. Since 2002, the General Assembly had urged UNEP to review and strengthen the present funding of the Committee. In response, the following steps have been taken:

(a) In November 2006, UNEP provided $49,000 on an exceptional basis for publishing the 2006 substantive report;

(b) In May 2007, UNEP established a general trust fund for voluntary contributions in respect of the Scientific Committee.

32. The terms of reference of the general trust fund have three objectives: (a) accelerate the finalization and publication of delayed scientific reviews; (b) improve awareness of the Committee and its findings; and (c) prepare for the future programme of work. In the initial appeal for contributions to the fund, an amount of $250,000 over two years was requested from the 21 States members of the Committee. The target of $90,000 for the year 2007 was reached in December 2007. However, in 2008 the amount pledged by 1 July was only $30,000 (8 per cent of the target). Given the voluntary nature of the funds, these contributions are not sufficient, assured or predictable.

33. The contributions to the trust fund are intended to provide for the implementation of projects approved by the Committee that it may not otherwise be able to undertake. The Committee has authorized its secretariat to take appropriate action to implement the strategic plan and programme of work. Accordingly, the Secretary will adjust resource requirements in line with detailed workplans and consult with the Committee's officers regarding the appropriate level of voluntary contributions to the trust fund. Subsequently, the Secretary would invite Member

States to consider contributing to the trust fund to accelerate the implementation of the strategic plan and the programme of work. However, these efforts require additional work for the Secretary to prepare and execute fund-raising plans.

V. Committee membership

A. Background to Committee membership

34. The founding General Assembly resolution 913 (X) established the Scientific Committee with a fixed membership, consisting of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Each Government was to designate one scientist, with alternates and consultants, as appropriate, to be its representative on the Committee.

35. The General Assembly, in its resolution 3154 (XXVIII), decided to increase the membership of the Scientific Committee to a maximum of 20 and invited Governments that desired to participate in the Committee and were able to contribute to its work to inform the President of the General Assembly. Subsequently, the following States were appointed Committee members: Federal Republic of Germany, Indonesia, Peru, Poland and Sudan.

36. In its resolution 41/62 B the Assembly expressed that it was conscious of the continued need for the Governments of Member States to commit themselves to giving to the Scientific Committee the greatest possible cooperation in order that its work might be more effective. It emphasized, in that connection, that the five permanent members of the Security Council were in a position to make particularly valuable contributions to the work of the Committee. The Assembly was convinced that the participation of China would enhance the effectiveness of the Scientific Committee, and decided to increase the membership of the Committee to a maximum of 21 and invited China to become a member.

37. Between 2002 and 2005, the General Assembly has annually noted with satisfaction that some Member States have expressed particular interest in becoming members of the Scientific Committee, and has expressed its intention to consider the issue further at each successive session. However the issue was not addressed formally until 2006, when the Assembly, in its resolution 61/109, invited Member States that desired to join the Scientific Committee to inform the President of the General Assembly, before 28 February 2007, of their interest. The Assembly decided to consider further the question of membership of the Scientific Committee in all its aspects, including financial implications, at its sixty-second session.

38. In its resolution 62/100 the Assembly welcomed that Belarus, Finland, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Spain and Ukraine had declared their desire to become members of the Committee and invited each of those six Member States to designate one scientist to attend, as observers, the fifty-sixth session of the

Committee. Subsequently, all six[5] countries nominated scientists to attend the session (10-18 July 2008) as observers.

39. The views of the Scientific Committee expressed during consultations held during its fifty-sixth session are recorded in the annex to the present report. Its stated views are (a) that the matter of staffing and financing should be addressed before questions of membership; and (b) that the maximum number of members should remain at about the present number in order to assure scientific quality, effectiveness and efficiency. The Committee offered two proposals for consideration of new members.

B. Financial and administrative implications of increased Committee membership

40. For the fifty-sixth session of the Committee, participants from the six countries mentioned in paragraph 38 above were considered observers. This generated minor requirements related to additional printing and similar costs, which were accommodated within resources already approved under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (see A/C.4/62/SR.12, paras. 62 and 64).

41. If all six States were to become new members of the Committee, the membership would be increased by about 29 per cent and about 24 new participants would attend the annual sessions (an increase of about 24 per cent). The travel costs for six new representatives to attend the annual session amounts to an additional $32,000 per biennium.

42. In order to accommodate an estimated additional 24 participants at the annual sessions, a larger conference facility would probably be needed, which could be provided within the capacity of the United Nations Office at Vienna. Considering the view of the Committee (see annex) that a larger Committee would reduce the time available for adequate scientific discussion, it is assumed that the length of the annual sessions would be extended from five days to six days, which would lead to additional costs of $50,000 per biennium. It is also estimated that there would be an increase of some 25 to 30 per cent in the photocopying and printing costs for the annual session, estimated at $8,000 per biennium.

43. As can be noted from paragraphs 41 and 42 above, should the membership of the Scientific Committee be increased the total additional requirements would amount to approximately $90,000 per biennium.

44. In addition, increased membership of the Committee would mean additional work for the secretariat to manage additional correspondence, additional submissions of scientific data and references for review and additional written comments on drafts of the technical documents.

45. The United Nations Secretariat concurs with the Committee's view that a larger Committee would be likely to require lengthier discussions to achieve consensus on interpretation of scientific information. To address this, there would be a need to (a) hold longer and/or more complex sessions; (b) prepare more discussion papers in advance of the session; and/or (c) develop more formal arrangements than

[5] Pakistan's nominated scientist did not attend; a minister from its Permanent Mission to the International Organizations in Vienna observed the session.

the current rather informal, collegiate and very efficient methods of reaching consensus. This would entail a workload of about 1.5 person-months at the P-4 level, which could be added to the workload of the additional P-4 post proposed in paragraphs 27 and 29. It could not, however, be absorbed into the workload of the current staffing without significantly impeding the implementation of the Committee's programme of work. It should be noted that there would be only minor additional costs incurred for accepting observers to the sessions, whose travel costs would not be provided, yet who would be considered to provide many of the benefits for the Committee's work.[6]

VI. Conclusions

46. The work of the Scientific Committee is fundamental to the international radiation protection regime as its work affects decisions on the energy debate, waste management, radiation medicine and protection of the public, workers and the environment. Its expertise is also highly relevant in the case of possible deployment of nuclear or radiological weapons.

47. In 1958, the Secretary of the Committee and a small number of Professional staff serving on a rotating basis supported a Committee with 15 member States, which published some 230 pages; the present Secretary supports a Committee with 21 member States, which publishes significantly more complex and diverse reports with some 1600 pages. The work of the Committee has a reputation for being highly efficient in producing high quality assessments. However, the increasing magnitude, complexity and diversity of the workload has not been matched by commensurate resources; this mismatch is seriously reducing the effectiveness of the Committee's work.

48. In response to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 62/100 that it be advised as to what further strengthening in the capacity of the secretariat of the Scientific Committee would be needed, it should be noted that in order to (a) support the timely production of increasingly extensive, complex and diverse evaluations; (b) enable the secretariat to consistently engage consultants with the highest levels of expertise; (c) improve dissemination of the Committee's findings; and (d) assure the support infrastructure for the longer term, an additional Scientific Officer at the P-4 level would be required at an estimated biennial cost to the programme budget amounting to $169,600 (current rates).

49. Although six countries have declared their interest in becoming members of the Committee, the General Assembly may wish to consider the Scientific Committee's stated views that (a) the matter of staffing and financing should be addressed before questions of membership; and (b) the maximum number of members should remain at about the present number in order to assure scientific

[6] It should be noted that: (a) the Scientific Committee has engaged in official collaboration with Belarus and Ukraine to assist in work on the Chernobyl accident and experts from those two States have participated in the relevant technical discussions at several past sessions; and (b) scientists from some States that are not members of the Committee regularly participate as members of delegations of States members of the Committee. Moreover, for the observer countries themselves, observer status may provide many of the same benefits as full membership (for example, interaction with world-class experts at the annual sessions, ensuring key national data are not overlooked and participation in the technical discussions).

quality, effectiveness and efficiency together with the two proposals of the Committee for consideration of new members in the annex to the present report.

50. The financial implications of an increase in membership of the Committee by the six States who have declared their interest is estimated at $90,000 per biennium in addition to the secretariat support identified in paragraph 48 above.

51. Accordingly, should the General Assembly decide on both the strengthening of the secretariat of the Scientific Committee and the increase in the membership of the Committee, the total estimated biennial requirement would amount to $259,600 (current rates).

Annex

Views of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation on membership, staffing and financing as expressed in consultations held during its fifty-sixth session (10-18 July 2008)

1. The present United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation is composed of 21 member States with representatives and their accompanying scientific advisers. At the fifty-sixth session, there were over 100 participants, including observers from an additional 10 international organizations and from the six States that have expressed interest in membership on the Committee. The Committee is aware of similar interest by other States in addition to the present six.

2. The Committee has functioned very effectively over more than 50 years with essentially its current membership and size and has been able to discharge its mandate successfully. The Committee is concerned, for a number of reasons, about increasing its size. The primary issues concern efficiency and quality. A larger committee with additional advisers would reduce the number of topics able to be considered, reduce the time available for adequate scientific discussion and reduce the quality of the Committee's reports. Additional concerns include increased expenses, which would reduce the resources available to engage critical scientific consultants. Addition of more members would reduce available meeting dates and also require a larger meeting room, likely an auditorium format, which also would reduce efficiency.

3. While in principle the Committee welcomes the interest shown by six States in becoming members of the Committee, it must first recall and re-emphasize its previous statement (see A/62/46, para. 9) where it "stressed that a solution should be found to the financial and resource issues before any discussion took place in the Assembly in relation to the possibility of expanding the membership of the Committee".

4. Moreover, the Committee believes that solutions can be found to the membership issue without necessarily increasing the size of the Committee. The development of this proposal requires a brief recapitulation of the historical requirements for membership as set by the General Assembly. The Committee was formed in 1955 with a requirement in its founding resolution (Assembly resolution 913 (X)) that Governments of States members of the Committee were to designate one scientist, with alternates and consultants, as appropriate, to be their representatives on the Committee.

5. Subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly relating to membership included the following elements:

(a) That those Governments which desire to participate in the Scientific Committee should be able to contribute to its work (resolutions 3154 (XXVIII) and 41/62);

(b) That extending membership to China would increase the effectiveness of the Committee (resolution 41/62).

6. The Committee considers that the principal objective of membership is the contribution that can be made to the work of the Committee and re-emphasizes (see A/62/46, para. 10) that "in a spirit of effectively contributing to the work of the Committee, States members of the Committee need to field active scientists as representatives, alternates and advisers, so that the Committee could fulfil its mandate as set out in General Assembly resolution 913 (X). In this regard, essential elements for the Committee were: sustainable knowledge on a broad range of issues in the field of radiation levels and effects; the capability to compile, prepare and evaluate scientific reports; competent assessment of draft scientific documents; and capability to summarize and synthesize the material for the Assembly, the scientific community and the public".

7. With the resurgence of nuclear power, global concerns about nuclear weapons and significantly increasing radiation exposure of the world's population, the Committee does recognize the reasons why States desire to be members. The Committee would like to respond to that desire while maintaining quality, scientific integrity and efficiency. The Committee is developing evaluation criteria reflecting the foregoing elements, the availability of expert scientists in the fields of the Committee's work and (for present States members of the Committee) attendance and participation at Committee sessions, contributions to work of the secretariat and contributions in kind. The criteria would be applicable, as far as possible, to both existing and potential future members.

8. The Committee suggests that the maximum number of members should remain at about the present number, in order that the scientific quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of the Committee are not compromised. However, this should not be seen as a constraint, in itself, to consideration of new members.

9. The Committee therefore offers two proposals. The first is to replace some existing States members of the Scientific Committee with new permanent members (the Secretary-General may wish to consult with existing members that have not been attending the Committee's sessions regularly on their interest in continuing to be members, with a view to their replacement with other interested States). The second proposal would be to designate some member States with permanent status and a number of others with rotating status. Selection of the member States, in either case, should rest upon the aforementioned evaluation criteria.

10. The Committee recognizes that the General Assembly will make the final decision and appreciates the opportunity to provide its input.

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Agenda item 118
Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Development Account

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Development Account (A/63/335). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The report of the Secretary-General was submitted pursuant to section VIII, paragraph 15, of General Assembly resolution 62/238.

I. Status of implementation of projects funded from additional resources

3. Part one of the report of the Secretary-General presented the status of implementation of the projects funded from additional resources provided under General Assembly resolutions 62/235 A for the biennium 2006-2007 and under Assembly resolutions 62/237 A and 62/238 for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/63/335, paras. 3-6). In its resolution 62/235 A, the Assembly decided to increase the provision under section 34, Development Account, by an amount of $5 million for the biennium 2006-2007, thus bringing the total appropriation to $21,551,900 for the biennium. Further, in its resolution 62/238, the Assembly decided to appropriate an additional $2.5 million for the Development Account for the biennium 2008-2009, while stressing that it was an exceptional measure towards addressing the lack of transfer of resources to the Account since its inception. Accordingly, in its resolution 62/237 A, the Assembly approved the appropriation of a total of $18,651,300 under section 34, Development Account, for the biennium 2008-2009, inclusive of the additional $2.5 million.

4. As regards the implementation of the projects funded from the additional resources under the above-mentioned resolutions, the report of the Secretary-

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General indicated that a total of 15 new projects had been selected, 10 to be included in the biennium 2006-2007 (fifth tranche) and 5 in the biennium 2008-2009 (sixth tranche) (A/63/335, paras. 4-6). It is also indicated that all of the projects are regional in scope and are intended to provide assistance in achieving internationally agreed development goals. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that project documents had been finalized for 11 of the 15 new projects and that, while some of the projects would begin implementation in 2008, most would become operational in 2009. The coverage of the projects by region and by thematic cluster is reflected in figures I and II in the report of the Secretary-General and the projects themselves are listed in the annex to the report. The Committee notes that the level of funding for the Development Account has been affected by the 2 per cent across the board reduction in non-staff costs, as reflected in General Assembly resolution 62/237 A, which, for the Development Account, amounted to $329,600.

5. In its report on the United Nations for the biennium 2006-2007, the Board of Auditors commented that the project monitoring mechanism put in place under the Development Account enabled project managers to assess the results achieved at the end of the project and recommended that the Administration put in place, for all of its technical cooperation activities, a results-measurement mechanism comparable to that required for the projects funded by the Development Account (A/63/5 (Vol. I), chap. II, paras. 88 and 89; see also A/63/474, para. 26).

6. The Advisory Committee notes that the proposed new projects all involve workshops or seminars. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that capacity-building, the main purpose of the projects funded under the Development Account, was carried out through a variety of methods, including the building of networks of expertise with links at the subregional, regional and global levels; the provision of advice affecting national, subregional and regional policies and practices; and the establishment of global databases of information. The Committee was also informed that expert networks were the prevailing knowledge management modality of the Development Account.

II. Implementation of decisions reflected in section VIII of General Assembly resolution 62/238

7. Part two of the report of the Secretary-General reviewed the implementation of decisions reflected in section VIII of resolution 62/238. In that resolution, the General Assembly encouraged the Secretary-General to work further towards identifying resources from possible reductions in administration and other overhead costs for transfer to the Development Account. The Assembly also recognized that the current modalities for financing the Development Account, which is to be funded from savings achieved as a result of the efficiency measures that can be identified in the context of budget performance reports, had not proved successful.

8. The report of the Secretary-General provided a brief account of the initial concept and strategy to create a "dividend for development" from savings in administration and other overhead costs, as well as background concerning efforts to identify such resources (A/63/335, paras. 8 and 9). The report indicated that the Secretary-General had presented a number of reports on enhancing cost-effectiveness in implementing legislative mandates, including measures taken to increase efficiency and productivity in the Secretariat. According to the Secretary-

General, "while efficiency measures have helped simplify processes, procedures, rules and services, have improved the quality of services and have had an impact on mandated programmes in the form of increased benefits, the results of these efficiency measures cannot be quantified" (see A/63/335, para. 9). Furthermore, the Secretary-General stated that identifying efficiency savings in order to increase the resource base of the Development Account had not been feasible.

9. **The Advisory Committee is not convinced by the argument presented in the report of the Secretary-General. The Committee points out that anticipated efficiency gains are calculated and routinely reflected in the budget submissions of peacekeeping operations. While recognizing the inherent differences between peacekeeping budgets and the regular budget, the Committee nonetheless suggests that the Secretary-General explore the possibility of using a similar approach in the regular budget. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to develop a proper methodology to quantify savings from possible reductions, including in administration and other overhead costs, through improvements in internal procedures and ongoing human resources, information and communications technology and other management reforms, as well as resources released from discontinued activities and outputs.** In addition, the Committee notes that the enterprise resource planning system should include functionality for the identification of efficiency savings.

10. The Secretary-General recommends, in paragraph 10 (b) of his report, that the General Assembly may wish to take note of the fact that the original basis of funding the Development Account from efficiency savings is no longer applicable. **The Advisory Committee is disappointed that the report of the Secretary-General does not provide any options for tangible, predictable and sustainable funding for the Development Account, despite the concerns expressed by the Assembly in section VIII, paragraph 10, of its resolution 62/238. The Advisory Committee reiterates its recommendation that the Assembly may wish to review the Development Account in all its aspects (A/62/7/Add.6, para. 14). The Committee intends to revert to this issue in the context of its review of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.**

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Agenda item 15
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 14 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations committed from 15 to 30 September 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 15, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-55319 (E) 201008 221008

Annex to the identical letters dated 14 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 15 to 30 September 2008

Air violations

On 15 September 2008, between 1200 and 1245 hours, Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Dayr Mimas. They circled over all areas of Lebanon before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b.

On 16 September 2008:

- Between 1030 and 1130 hours, Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over the occupied Shab'a Farms. They circled over areas of the South, the Western Bekaa and the Shuf, making mock attacks over the South before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b;
- Between 2030 and 2150 hours, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over areas of the South before leaving over Kafr Killa.

On 17 September 2008:

- Between 0752 and 2330 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Naqurah, flying north. It circled over Beirut, the South, and the areas of Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving over Dayr Mimas;
- Between 1003 and 1025 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh and flying north as far as Shikka. They then left over Kafr Killa;
- Between 1035 and 1130 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa and flying north as far as Shikka. They circled between Shikka and the South before leaving over Rumaysh.

On 19 September 2008, between 1927 and 2315 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese air space, entering over Aytarun. It circled over areas of the South before leaving over Naqurah.

On 20 September 2008:

- Between 1620 and 1700 hours, Israeli enemy warplanes flew over the area of Hasbayya;
- Between 1945 and 2200 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over areas of the South before leaving over Rumaysh.

On 21 September 2008, at 1250 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over areas of the South before leaving on 22 September 2008 at 0140 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.

On 22 September 2008:

- Between 0700 and 2050 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over areas of the South before leaving over Alma al-Sha`b;

- Between 1940 and 2215 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over the South before leaving over Alma al-Sha`b.

On 23 September 2008:

- Between 0800 and 1305 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha`b. It circled over areas of the South before leaving over Alma al-Sha`b;

- Between 1010 and 1040 hours and later between 1505 and 1545 hours, an Israeli enemy warplane flew over the areas of Bint Jubayl and Tibnin;

- At 1345 hours an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Bint Jubayl. It circled over the South before leaving on 24 September 2008 at 0025 hours over the sea off Naqurah;

- Between 1610 and 2350 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over areas of the South before leaving over Rumaysh;

- Between 1725 and 1815 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft flew over Bint Jubayl and Tibnin.

On 24 September 2008:

- Between 0210 and 0215 hours, Israeli enemy warplanes flew over Lebanese territorial waters off Ra's al-Naqurah and re'leased a heat balloon;

- Between 1105 and 1835 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha`b and flying north as far as Baalbek. It circled over Riyaq and Baalbek and between Beirut and the South before leaving over Naqurah;

- Between 1600 and 2230 hours an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Aytarun and flying north. It circled over areas of the South before leaving over Alma al-Sha`b;

- At 1950 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha`b and flying north as far as Beirut. It circled between Beirut and the South and over Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving on 25 September 2008 at 0115 hours over Naqurah;

- At 2030 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Aytarun and flying north. It circled over the South and then left on 25 September 2008 at 0315 hours over Naqurah.

On 25 September 2008:

- Between 0305 and 0540 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh and flying north. It circled over areas of the South and then left over Rumaysh;

- Between 0750 and 2340 hours, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South, over Riyaq and Baalbek and between Khaldah and the South before leaving over Rumaysh;

- Between 0800 and 1140 hours, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha`b and flying north as far as Khaldah. It circled over Khaldah and the South before leaving over Rumaysh;

- At 2330 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over areas of the South before leaving on 26 September 2008 at 0710 hours over Alma al-Sha`b.

On 26 September 2008:

- Between 0725 and 0910 hours, Israeli enemy warplanes flew over the occupied Shab`a Farms;

- Between 0700 and 1100 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over areas of the South before leaving over Alma al-Sha`b;

- At 1815 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha`b. It circled over areas of the South and left, on 27 September 2008 at 0135 hours over Rumaysh.

On 29 September 2008, between 0700 and 1100 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha`b and flying north. It circled over areas of the South and over Beirut before leaving over Alma al-Sha`b.

Sea violations

On 16 September 2008, at 1940 hours, off Ra's al-Naqurah inside occupied Palestinian waters, an Israeli enemy military launch shone a searchlight for five seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters.

On 19 September 2008:

- At 0230 hours, off Ra's al-Naqurah inside occupied Palestinian waters, an Israeli military launch directed a searchlight for 10 seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters;

- At 0335 hours, the same launch fired several rounds of medium-machine-gun fire towards Lebanese territorial waters.

On 26 September 2008, at 0530 hours, in the open sea off Ra's al-Naqurah inside occupied Palestinian territorial waters, an Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight for half a minute towards Lebanese territorial waters.

On 29 September 2008, at 2345 hours, in the open off Ra's al-Naqurah inside occupied Palestinian territorial waters, an Israeli enemy military launch shone searchlights for two minutes towards Lebanese territorial waters.

Acts of aggression in the field

On 15 September 2008, between 1830 and 2010 hours, the Israeli enemy discharged light-machine-gun fire inside its position in occupied Palestinian territory opposite the villages of Ramiya and 'Ayta al-Sha'b. Several bursts of gunfire were heard above the villages of Ramiya and Fawzah. Nobody was injured.

- The Israeli enemy directed a searchlight from the Zar'it barracks towards the Marwahin-Jabal Balat triangle, on two occasions, the first for two minutes at 2020 hours and the second for three minutes at 2307 hours.

On 17 September 2008:

- Between 1900 and 1925 hours, while the Israeli enemy was firing medium machine-guns in the area around its position inside occupied Palestinian territory, the noise of gunfire was heard in the air above the village of Ramiya;

- Between 2050 and 2210 hours, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight from its position in the Zar'it barracks towards the Marwahin-Jabal Balat triangle, on two occasions, in each case for a period of two minutes.

On 29 September 2008, at 1330 hours, opposite the town of Rumaysh, a Merkava tank at a distance of 200 metres from the Blue Line aimed its gun at the Lebanese army position and shortly thereafter a patrol arrived comprising two Hummer vehicles with six people on board who began to shout at two Lebanese shepherds who were close to the Blue Line.

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The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
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Identical letters dated 14 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical table of the violations committed by Israel by air, sea and land during the month of September 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 15, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-55360 (E) 211008 221008

Annex to the identical letters dated 14 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statistical table showing Israeli violations during September 2008

Air violations				*Sea violations*	*Land violations*				*Overall total*	*Previous month's violations*
					Military acts of aggression	*Field violations*	*Breaches*	*Total*		
Military jet	**Reconnaissance**	**Helicopter**	**Total**	Crossing of territorial waters, and firing of automatic-weapons rounds, flares and flare shells over territorial waters	Air raids, artillery shelling, shelling of military positions and important posts, attacks on and killing of civilians	Gunfire, launching of flare shells, dropping of artillery shells, infiltration and crossing of international borders	Threats and display of weapons, bulldozing of soil, placing of barbed wire and setting up of installations inside Lebanese territory			
16	**42**	**—**	**58**	**9**	**—**	**33**	**—**	**33**	**100**	**61**

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 30
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

The occupied Syrian Golan

Report of the Secretary-General*

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/110 of 17 December 2007, the operative part of which reads as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "...
>
> "1. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, rescind forthwith its decision;
>
> "2. *Also calls upon* Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and in particular to desist from the establishment of settlements;
>
> "3. *Determines* that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that purport to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and have no legal effect;
>
> "4. *Calls upon* Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, and

* The document was submitted late to conference services without the explanation required under paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 53/208 B, by which the Assembly decided that, if a report is submitted late, the reason should be included in a footnote to the document.

08-55084 (E) 291008

from its repressive measures against the population of the occupied Syrian Golan;

"5. *Deplores* the violations by Israel of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

"6. *Calls once again upon* Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to above;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 4 September 2008, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Government of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the above-mentioned resolution, that the Government inform him of any steps it had taken, or envisaged taking, concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

4. By a note verbale dated 4 September 2008 sent to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations regarding General Assembly resolutions 62/107 and 62/110, the Secretary-General drew the attention of all Member States to paragraph 6 of resolution 62/110.

5. On 17 September 2008, the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations replied to the note verbale informing the Secretary-General that the Government of Lebanon had contributed to the final declaration of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at its eleventh session in which the Conference condemned the continuing human rights violations of the Palestinian people by Israel, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan.

6. On 22 September 2008, the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations replied to the note verbale informing the Secretary-General that with regard to resolution 62/110 the Government of Colombia did not recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures taken by Israel in the occupied Syrian Golan.